

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 10 are in the case. The description and Fig. 1 have been amended to remove informalities. Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention for reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that the specification adequately discloses the invention, such as how the device operates to expand the mandrel (22).

As disclosed in the various embodiments of the invention, the take-up spool can comprise an expandable mandrel and a tapered ring, which can be attached to flanges (20') and (20), respectively. The mandrel can comprise a plurality of curvilinear sections (24, 26, and 28) arranged about a central axis to form a cylinder. Each section has one end that is permanently affixed to flange (20'). *See* the last two lines of page 3 and Fig. 1. Thus, the curvilinear sections (24, 26, & 28) can be fixedly mounted on the flange (20').

The tapered ring (18) can be adapted to be positioned inside the cylinder and in pressure contact with the cylinder interior. *See* page 6, lines 10 and 11. Accordingly, the tapered ring (18) can provide support to the cylinder, such as at an unexpanded position. The tapered ring (18) can be releasably fixed to the removable flange (20).

The tapered ring (18) can be expanded to further expand the cylinder, such as to an expanded position. In an exemplary embodiment such as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, a plurality of springs (34) are provided, each of which has its ends mounted on the center tube (16) and the tapered ring (18), respectively. In view of the above disclosure, one skilled in the art would be able to comprehend the invention and be able to use a compressed spring member to exert pressure on the tapered ring (18) thereby expanding the same. The expansion of the tapered ring (18) can further expand the mandrel (22) because of the pressure contact therebetween. It will be appreciated that the springs (34) can be formed in other manners but still able to carry out the invention.

Additionally or alternatively, the tapered ring (18) can be expanded through the radial expansion of the collapsible cone (36). In an exemplary embodiment, such as shown in Fig. 1, the center tube (16) of the tapered ring (18) can have a free end on which a screw element can be provided. When the retaining means (12), such as a complementary screw element, is being mounted on to the center tube (16), the flange (20) can be urged to move toward the collapsible cone (36). Such movement of flange (20) can provide a driving force for axially compressing the collapsible cone (36). It is thus within the comprehension of one skilled in the art to implementing the axial compression of the collapsible cone (36), which can result in the expansion of the tapered ring (18). As stated above, the expansion of the tapered ring (18) can further expand the mandrel (22) because of the pressure contact therebetween.

Based on the above submission, applicant respectfully submits that the specification adequately discloses the invention to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Therefore, the above rejection is believed to be overcome.

The disclosure was objected to because of the informalities listed on pages 2 and 3 of the Office action. In response, applicant has amended the disclosure as the Examiner suggested. With respect to reference numeral 34 on page 7, line 15, applicant respectfully submits that the correct reference numeral for the slots formed on flange 20 should be 38. Appropriate change was made to the disclosure. Therefore, the above objection is believed to be overcome.

The drawings were objected to because the grooves 34' (which is believed to be inadvertently mistaken for 40' in the Office action) and the slots 34' mentioned on page 7, lines 15 and 16 are not numbered in the drawings as set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. In response, applicant deleted the reference numeral 40' from page 7, lines 15 and 16 of the disclosure. With respect to reference numeral 34' on page 7, line 16, applicant respectfully submits that the correct reference numeral for the slots located on flange 20' should be 38'. Appropriate change was made to the disclosure. Therefore, the above objection is believed to be overcome.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and pass the application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:
Drawing Replacement Sheet